

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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Ike's Talk Has Propaganda Value

By Drew Pearson

Sometimes private citizens can do almost as much about peace as their government, sometimes almost a little more.

A case in point is President Eisenhower's inspiring speech proposing the use of arms money for reconstruction of the world—if Russia will show a real desire for peace.

The most important thing

Pearson

is to get this message across to the people of Europe, not merely behind the Iron Curtain but on the free side of the Iron Curtain. To this end the patriotic Italian-American newspaper, *Il Progresso* of New York, will soon print the full text of President Eisenhower's speech in the Italian language and in such form that it can be clipped and mailed back to friends and relatives in Italy.

This important gesture by *Il Progresso* will have greater effect than might appear on the surface. For the chief slogan of the Communists in Italy and elsewhere is that the United States is the world's chief war-monger, while Soviet Russia is the chief champion of peace. This theme has been hammered home so vigorously that a lot of people really believe it.

Therefore, to have Americans of Italian descent mail copies of Eisenhower's inspiring speech back to Italy is extremely important. Its importance lies in the fact that it will come from one friend or relative to another, not from a government.

People trust friends and relatives. They don't always trust governments.

This columnist would like to suggest that Polish, Hungarian, Croat and other foreign-language newspapers in the United States also print Eisenhower's speech in their language and urge that it be mailed to every country in Europe.

No \$ For Peace

Congress . . . spending a record three million dollars on investigations, but hasn't invested a nickel in examining the vital question of peace or war.

This was brought out the other day during closed-door cross-examination of Undersecretary

of State Bedell Smith, who was reporting to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the new Russian peace offensive. Smith explained that the Central Intelligence Agency had prepared a detailed analysis of Russian intentions.

"Has this been made available to the committee?" inquired Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.).

"No one has asked for it," shrugged Smith.

This prompted Humphrey to propose a careful study of the new Russian government. He urged calling in all the Nation's experts on Russia, and listening to their ideas. Otherwise, he argued, the Senate wouldn't be qualified to carry out its constitutional duty of advising the President on foreign affairs.

However, the Senators didn't seem much interested. Apparently they would rather spend money hunting headlines than digging into the complex problems of peace.

Note: This indifferent attitude indicates the importance of newspaper publisher Frank Gannett's suggestion that we establish a department of peace dedicated to promoting and pushing peace every day in the week. A similar suggestion has also been made by R. M. Davis of Morgantown, W. Va., and Congressman Staggers (D-W. Va.) has introduced a bill in Congress looking toward that end.

Political Potpourri

It's no secret around the White House that Secretary of State Dulles is suspicious of foreign aid boss Stassen. That's one reason Dulles let Stassen down in his fight with Senator McCarthy (R-Wis.). Inside fact is that Stassen has been doing an A-1 job, takes his work home at night, surprises associates with his knowledge of international problems. Michigan's popular Gov. Mennen "Soapy" Williams is quietly researching the political record of Sen. Homer Ferguson (R-Mich.)—a prelude to challenging Ferguson's Senate seat in 1954.

Korean Hero

Army officials are considering awarding the Nation's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor, to Pvt. Courtney L. Stanley, the 19-year-old Mansfield, La., Negro, whose extraordinary heroism on

Korea's "Little Gibraltar" saved the life of his wounded commanding officer, Lieut. Col. Harry Clark of Columbus, Ga. Clark termed Private Stanley's one-man stand against the Reds as "the most courageous action I've ever seen."

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(See page 520) Drew Pearson's staff conference, 6:45 p. m., WTOP-TV; hear him at 6:15 p. m., WTOP radio.